Package to SSIs against global competition

1327. SHRI M.V. MYSURA REDDY:
SHRI KAMAL AKHTAR:

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that small scale industries, functioning at present, in the different parts of the country are facing a lot of difficulties including global competition and liberalized imports;

(b) whether Government have proposed to prepare any economic package and providing them Government protection to face the global competition; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES (SHRI MAHAVIR PRASAD): (a) Government is aware of the challenges of globalisation and liberalised imports faced by the Small Scale Industries (SSI) under the WTO regime, and has taken appropriate measures for preparing them to meet these challenges.

(b) and (c) The Government has specific schemes for encouraging upgradation of technology to meet global challenges to SSIs. It has already announced a "National Manufacturing Competitiveness Programme". A comprehensive "Package for the Promotion of Micro and Small Enterprises" has also been announced on 27/02/2007. Together, they provide for fiscal support, support for cluster based development, technologies and quality upgradation support, marketing support, support for entrepreneurial and managerial development and other support measures. Further, the Micro Small and Medium Enterprises Development (MSMED) Act, 2006 has been formulated as a response to the long-standing demand of the SSI sector, the emergent need to provide a legal framework to address the developmental concerns of what is globally known as "small and medium enterprises".

Arrears of wage agreement

1328. SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that workers of IISCO have not been paid arrears of wage agreement even after its merger with SAIL;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government are considering the proposal to pay the arrears to IISCO workers;

(d) if so, the time schedule of the payment; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS) : (a) to (e) Revised salary has been paid to IISCO Steel Plant (ISP) employees with effect from 1.4.2005 which is the date of merger of Indian Iron and Steel Company Limited (IISCO) with Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL). No further arrears have been paid to employees of ISP from 1.1.1997 to 31.3.2005 because during that period IISCO was a sick company under the purview of Board of Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR).

Production of steel in Jharkhand

†1329. SHRI AJAY MAROO: Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for increasing the production of steel in Jharkhand during the next five years;

(b) the policy of Government for providing iron-ore required for the same;

(c) whether any proposal has been received from the Steel Authority of India in this regard; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL (DR. AKHILESH DAS): (a) No target has been fixed for steel production in Jharkhand by the Ministry of Steel. However, Memoranda of Understandings (MoUs) have been entered into between the State Government of Jharkhand and private sector entrepreneurs.

(b) Iron ore mining leases are allocated by the concerned State Governments after taking the approval of the Ministry of Mines, Government of India.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi